

8058:9/80

**AMERICAN BAPTIST
RESOLUTION ON FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE AND WORSHIP**

We believe that every person is entitled to have full freedom of conscience, freedom to worship and to profess and exercise religious beliefs in public as well as in private. We are mindful that the people who live under governments freely elected by democratic processes have a responsibility to understand the plight of religious believers who suffer the persecutions, restrictions, and harassments of undemocratic governments. We express our concern for these, our brothers and sisters, and pledge to keep them in our prayers, and to seek to bring the pressure of world opinion to bear on their situation so that they may come to have full freedom of conscience and worship.

Adopted by the American Baptist Convention - 1964
Affirmed as an American Baptist Churches Resolution -
September 1980
(General Board Reference # - 8058:9/80)

POLICY BASE

**American Baptist Policy Statement on Human Rights - Adopted
December 1976**

As American Baptists we declare the following rights to be basic rights, and we will support programs and measures to assure these rights:

1. The right of every person to choose a religion freely, to maintain religious belief or unbelief without coercion; the right for communities of faith to meet together to engage in public worship, to witness publicly to others, to speak prophetically from religious conviction to government and society, to live out religious beliefs, and to be free from governmental intrusion, coercion, and control in the free exercise of conscience and religion;

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